

Retirement



Congratulations to Lt. William Ridgeway on his retirement Dec. 27. Lt. Ridgeway served 31 years in firefighting.

Making History In the Third Battalion Number 3 Platoon

For the very first time in DCFEMS history, all technicians in the 3rd Battalion Number 3 platoon are African American. All 13 grew up in Washington, D.C., and attended public schools. They are proud to serve their community as firefighters and EMS providers, and live by their motto, "Each One Teach One."



Front row from left to right: Antonio Best T-8, Gregory Spriggs E-32, Roger Delaney T-8 (Plt. 2), Darlene Brown T-8, Ronald Little E-32 (Plt. 2), Shawn Jones E-25, George Stroman E-33. Second row left to right: Claude Brown T-16, Joseph Bright E-15, Ray Fowler T-16, Dwayne Martin RS-3, Anthony Phillip E-19, and Kevin Frazier E-33.

Kudos



On Oct. 26, Lt. Robert Washington ran the Marine Corps Marathon 5K in full gear.

Special Rescue

Units responded to a basement fire in the 4200 block of Reno Road, NW, on Dec. 15. The fire was quickly extinguished with no human injuries, but several dogs and cats were trapped inside. Firefighters rescued the animals, many unconscious and unresponsive. After receiving oxygen, most of the animals responded. In all, 11 cats and 4 dogs were rescued.



Firefighters Leland and Sewell administer oxygen to a dog, one of several animals rescued Dec. 15.

DCFEMS 411

Best wishes to Firefighter Phil Buffa (wagon driver Engine 29-3), who suffered a mild heart attack due to a bacterial infection. Firefighter Buffa has been released from the hospital and is now recuperating at home.

Best wishes to firefighter Frederick Penny, T-13, who suffered a heart attack in December.

Congratulations to Bridget Cusick, daughter of Theresa Cusick, Fire/EMS General Counsel. Bridget is a member of Washington International School's Red Devils co-ed hockey team, which took to the ice for the first time in December.

Retired Chief Phillip Matthews passed away on Nov. 19. Chief Matthews was appointed to Engine 13 on April 16, 1956 and retired as Deputy Fire Chief, Communications Division on Nov. 28, 1992.

All copies of the Beacon can be found on the network path: Shared on 'Fems-ofc-fnw-1\Data(K:) FEMS OFFICE FORMS\NEWSLETTERS\Beacon.



BEACON

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DCFEMS gave its highest honor, The Bronze Bar Award, to nine firefighters in a ceremony Dec. 12 at the Training Academy. The recipient's are: Sergeant Gregory G. Crowe T-15-4, Firefighter Christopher J. Zdobsyz T-15-4, Firefighter Wayne V. Darmstead E-6-3, Firefighter Chad M. Breen T-15-4, Firefighter Patrick C. McMahan T-15-4, Captain Edward L. Smith E-14-1, Firefighter Robert J. Feeny E-8-3, Firefighter John K. Schunk E-8-3, Firefighter Christopher J. Turner HazMat-2.



Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson speaking to the media during a Nov. 7 press conference on Capitol Hill. Members of Congress, including Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) (both pictured) announced passage of the SAFER Act. The Act could provide up to \$7.6

billion in grant money to fire departments nationwide to hire additional firefighters. DCFEMS Assistant Fire Chiefs James Miller and James Martin, Local 36's Kenneth Cox, and members of the IAFC were also present.

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★★★ Adrian H. Thompson,
Fire/EMS Chief
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

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Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov. Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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Thanksgiving



Medical Director, Dr. Fernando Daniels, EMS Deputy Chief Greg Blalock, EMS Deputy Chief J.T. Spruill and EMS providers delivering Thanksgiving baskets to needy families on Nov. 25.



DCFEMS Paramedic and Army Captain Mark St. Laurent with President Bush in Baghdad, Iraq, on Thanksgiving Day.



Local 36 gave Thanksgiving baskets to five families at the Reeves Center on Nov. 25. Pictured with family members are: Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson, Local 36 President Ray Sneed, Deputy Fire Chief Kenneth Ellerbe, Assistant Fire Chief James Martin, and Lieutenant Gerald Coles, T-4-2.

Firefighting

Congratulations to Team DC in the Metro Fire Department Rodeo, sponsored by WMATA. On Nov. 1, Team DC beat teams from Prince George's, Montgomery, Fairfax and Arlington Counties in the sixth annual event, which tests firefighting skills.



Pictured left to right: David Williams, Richard Copeland, Christopher Holmes, Lawrence Wilson, Colin St. Claire, Lieutenant James Seavey, Sr. (coach).

DCFEMS Staged Mass Casualty Drill



DCFEMS staged a mass casualty drill on Nov. 21 at RFK Stadium. The scenario involved a traffic accident in which several bystanders were struck. EMS providers, firefighters and cadets worked together in the successful drill, which was covered extensively by local media.

Communications



Special delivery! 911 operator Katrina Branch poses with Nicole Porter and baby Sacred, born unexpectedly Nov. 25. Katrina provided calm instructions over the phone – as mom Nichole delivered a healthy, 7.5 lb. baby girl. Well done!

EMS

Correction:

October 2003 Beacon: Captain LaShon Frazier received the Above and Beyond Award from the National Committee on behalf of the Department of Defense for her support to reserve officer, Lieutenant Arthur Bradley.

Training



On Nov. 14, DCFEMS cadets participated in a citywide forum for DC Youth and Government, held at the Rhode Island Avenue YMCA. The cadets, along with other youth from the metro area, discussed issues such as gentrification and censorship. *The Washington Post* covered the event and featured three cadets in the story.

DCFEMS cadets participated in the 49th Annual One Fund Kick-off on Oct. 31, held at the Reeves Center.

Christmas



Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson, Assistant Fire Chief James Martin, EMS Deputy Chief Greg Blalock, Lt. Sean Egan, E-16, members of Engine 16 and others with some of the toys DCFEMS collected during the 2003 Toys for Tots Campaign.

Congratulations and a great big THANK YOU goes out to the Department for this year's participation in the United States Marine Corp Reserve 2003 Toys for Tots Campaign. In our first year as an official collection sponsor, we collected more than 500 toys and \$135 in checks made out to Toys for Tots. This was a fantastic outpouring of support from the Department! We could not have been as successful without the dedicated efforts of Lt. Sean Egan, Engine 16; Walter Gold, Friendship Fire Association, and Staff Sergeant Fair at USMC Anacostia Annex.

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